



Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

CC: Minister Mr. James Cleverly MP
British Consulate-General Jerusalem

08 June 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Request to the UK government to take action in accordance with its commitments under the 'UK Support for Human Rights Defenders' to protect Laith Abu Zeyad

In light of a request by the Jerusalem District Court on 31 May 2020 to withdraw his petition, we renew our request for the UK government to intervene in the case of the arbitrary and punitive travel ban imposed by Israeli authorities on the Palestinian human rights defender, Laith Abu Zeyad, of Amnesty International. The travel ban denies him travel outside of the occupied West Bank which adversely affects his human rights work. Moreover, it had the cruel and inhuman effect of preventing him from seeing his mother whilst she underwent chemotherapy treatment in Jerusalem, who then sadly passed away over the Christmas period.

We refer to our enclosed letter dated 19 December 2019 for background details on his case. It is pertinent to repeat here that Mr. Abu Zeyad and his legal representatives have not been given sight of, and therefore the ability to challenge, the evidence that the Israeli authorities assert provides justification for imposing an indefinite travel ban for “security reasons”. It is profoundly unjust and contrary to due process rights protected by international human rights law to punish a civilian on the basis of secret evidence.

The fact that Mr. Abu Zeyad is a recognised human rights defender, who is accordingly particularly vulnerable to targeting and harassment by authorities, adds a further layer of extremely serious concern to his deeply disturbing case. LPHR takes an evidence-based view this his case falls within a systematic approach applied by Israeli authorities to deter Palestinian human rights defenders and organisations from undertaking their vital work.

We therefore respectfully urge the UK government to act pursuant to its commitments under the 'UK Support for Human Rights Defenders', published last July, and:

1. Urge Israeli authorities to immediately lift the arbitrary and punitive indefinite travel ban imposed on the Palestinian human rights defender, Laith Abu Zeyad;
2. Issue a public statement deploring the Israeli authorities prolonged gross maltreatment of a recognised Palestinian human rights defender; and
3. Work on Mr. Abu Zeyad's case with European counterparts who have similar commitments under the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.

LAWYERS FOR PALESTINIAN
HUMAN RIGHTS



We would be grateful for your careful consideration of this human rights defenders matter and for your written reply outlining the actions that you will undertake to protect Mr. Abu Zeyad.

Yours sincerely,

Tareq Shrourou (Director) and Aleisha Ebrahimi
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights